

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A decoupling element of deformable material adapted to be interposed [[for interposing]] between the faces (31, 41; 312, 413) of two supports (3, 4; 3', 4'; 300, 400) of a drive device having a central axis (X'X) of rotation, the decoupling element being formed by a ring (2, 200) comprising a central core (1) and at least two opposite faces (21e, 21i; 212, 213), and being characterized in that at least one of these faces (21i, 21e; 212, 213) has abrupt projections adapted to mesh together with complementary abrupt projections of [[and the]] facing face (31, 41; 312, 313) of the support (3, 4; 3', 4'; 300, 400) ~~present complementary abrupt projections suitable for meshing together~~, meshing of the ring (2, 200) creating zones (K<sub>1</sub>) at the roots of the projections (2e, 2i; 2'e, 2'i; 3e, 4i; 3'e, 4'i; 20e, 20i; 202, 203; 302, 403) where the central core (1) substantially works in shear, these zones being regularly distributed over at least [[on]] one of the faces (21e, 21i; 212, 213) of the ring (2, 200).

2. (currently amended) A decoupling element according to claim 1, in which the two opposite faces of the ring (2, 200) are fluted, and are adapted to mesh together with fluted [[and the]] facing faces of the supports (3, 4; 3', 4'; 300, 400) [[are fluted]].

3. (currently amended) A decoupling element according to claim 1, in which a single face of the ring (2, 200) is fluted, and is adapted to mesh with a fluted single [[and the facing]] face of the support (3, 4; 3', 4'; 300, 400) [[are fluted]], the non-fluted face of the ring and the facing face of the support adapted to be [[being]] bonded together.

4. (original) A decoupling embodiment according to claim 3, in which the non-fluted face of the ring and the facing face of the support are bonded together via a link insert.

5. (currently amended) A decoupling element according to claim 1, in which the faces (21e, 21i) of the ring (2) and of the supports (3, 3'; 4, 4') which are adapted to mesh with the faces (21e, 21i) [[which mesh]] are cylindrical and parallel to the axis of rotation (X'X), the projections (2e, 2i; 2'e, 2'i; 3e, 4i; 3'e, 4'i; 20e, 20i) being radial.

6. (currently amended) A decoupling element according to claim [[1]] 2, in which the square of the ratio of the radii (R1, R2) of [[the]] cylindrical faces of the decoupling element is inversely equal to the ratio of the angles ( $\alpha_1, \alpha_2$ ) at the center intercepting two projections (2e, 2i; 2'e, 2'i; 20e, 20i) of the respective faces, the opposite projections being periodically distributed on the basis of a pattern.

7. (currently amended) A decoupling element according to claim 1, in which the faces (212, 213) of the ring (200) and the faces (312, 413) of the supports (300, 400) which are adapted to mesh with the faces (212, 213) [[which mesh]] therewith are radial and perpendicular to the axis (X'X), the projections (202, 203; 302, 403) being axial.

8. (currently amended) A decoupling element according to claim 1, in which the faces of the ring (240) and of the supports (340, 440) which are adapted to mesh with

the faces [[which mesh]] are cylindrical faces (25i, 25e) extending parallel to said axis of rotation (X,X), and radial faces (272, 273) extending perpendicularly to said axis, the projections being respectively radial (24i, 24e; 342, 443) and axial (262, 263).

9. (original) A decoupling element according to claim 1, in which the projections are crenellations of right section (2e, 2i) having side flanks (22a) that are substantially perpendicular to the face (21e, 21i) of the ring (2) on which they are formed.

10. (currently amended) A decoupling element according to claim 6, in which the projections (20e, 20i) present side flanks (22b) of section that flares from the face (21e, 21i) of the ring, with a mean angle ( $\alpha_3$ ) of up to 60° relative to the radius (R1, R2), the projections [[being]] having one of a trapezoidal [[or]], hyperbolic, or curved shape [[or of appropriate curvature]].

11. (previously presented) A decoupling element according to claim 9, in which the projections (2'e, 2'l) present a profile that is constant or that varies linearly so as to facilitate unmolding and assembly by self-centering when engaging the ring (2) with the supports (3, 4).

12. (original) A decoupling element according to claim 1, in which the ring (2) is split to form an opening (5) so as to make it easier to assemble by being splayed apart while the hub (3) is being inserted and by being compressed while it is being inserted into the rim (4), thereby enabling play between parts to be compensated.

13. (currently amended) A decoupling element according to claim 1, in which the ring (2, 200) is made by complete cutting, by molding, by extrusion followed by slicing, or by injection/compression, the material [[possibly]] being flat and then rolled up and then cut to make split rings.

14. (previously presented) A decoupling element according to claim 10, in which the projections (2'e, 2'l) present a profile that is constant or that varies linearly so as to facilitate unmolding and assembly by self-centering when engaging the ring (2) with the supports (3, 4).

15. (new ) A decoupling element and two support combination, the decoupling element made of deformable material and interposed between the faces (31, 41; 312, 413) of two supports (3, 4; 3', 4'; 300, 400) of a drive device having a central axis (X'X) of rotation, the decoupling element being formed by a ring (2, 200) comprising a central core (1) and at least two opposite faces (21e, 21i; 212, 213), and being characterized in that at least one of these faces (21i, 21e; 212, 213) has abrupt projections meshed together with complementary abrupt projections of facing face (31, 41; 312, 313) of the support (3, 4; 3', 4'; 300, 400), meshing of the ring (2, 200) creating zones (K<sub>1</sub>) at the roots of the projections (2e, 2i; 2'e, 2'i; 3e, 4i; 3'e, 4'i; 20e, 20i; 202, 203; 302, 403) where the central core (1) substantially works in shear, these zones being regularly distributed over at least one of the faces (21e, 21i; 212, 213) of the ring (2, 200).